

NEWS

168,000



GET IN THE KNOW!

Office of Youth Services Vision And Goals:

The vision and goals of the **DeKalb County Office of Youth Services (OYS)** is to provide a centralized office whereby children, youth, parents, and community stakeholders can access new and existing signature youth programs and initiatives provided to residents of DeKalb County. OYS provides a centralized office to strategically address the needs of children and youth by using an approach and way of thinking, communicating and working collaboratively in a manner in which members of the community (other DeKalb Centers, organizations, individuals, and community stakeholders) have a shared responsibility for the success of all young people.

and counting! DeKalb County is one of the largest counties in the State of Georgia. Of the estimated 713,000 residents about 23 percent are 18 years of age and younger. With a 3.1 percent growth rate, the Office of Youth Services is excited to be the hub for all things youth services related!

Program Implementation

DeKalb County Office of Youth Services provides program implementation based upon the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. This approach includes streamlining existing fragmented youth service initiatives, while also introducing new signature youth initiatives and programs. Program implementation includes developing new initiatives and strengthening existing programs to ensure the development of well-rounded children and youth in the following areas:



Nutrition,
Wellness &
Healthy Living



Arts, Entertainment
& Culture



Youth Problem
Solving & Violence
Prevention

Mentorship
& Leadership
Development



Business
Entrepreneurship &
Extended Education



Youth
Homelessness
& Poverty



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Fire Explorers go to Haiti!!



Each year the Fire Explorers program is afforded the opportunity to send two Explorers on a mission trip to Haiti. During this time, they will distribute items and supplies that were collected throughout the year. This mission trip is a great way for the Explorers to use their leadership skills and to participate in a life changing experience. This trip allows for the Explorers to give back to communities abroad and to share with youth and young adults. This mission trip encourages the Explorers to share their experience upon the return in a manner that pushes the other Explorers to become better and to enhance their own leadership skills. It also lends to an increase in compassion.



Explorers help pack shoes for children in Haiti!



Explorers preparing to begin their day of mission work!



Explorers separate shoe sizes!

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Leaders of Tomorrow!!



YOUNG MEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY!

The Young Men's Leadership Program held its third monthly session which focused on Professional Decorum. The workshop was led by Derrick Holloway, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and President of Platinum Orations. The young men learned innovative interview techniques, how to execute an elevator pitch, and follow-up methods to help them stand-out amongst the competition. During the second phase each student learned to tie a half and a full windsor knot. This was an impactful workshop that is sure to be relevant to their summer job hunt.



YWLA

During the May program session for the Young Women's Leadership Program, "DeKalb Girls Rock", the participants engaged in a facilitated workshop focused on public speaking and communication. The workshop was led by Alethea Bonello and Diane DeJarnette, Toastmasters International. The Public Speaking session was followed by a session facilitated by Dr. Barbara Smith, she spoke to the young ladies about the importance of interpersonal relationships and how your reputation precedes you. Some of the ladies had an opportunity to participate in a role playing activity to provide an up close look at how your body language and tone can impact your message.



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Around the Town!!



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GOES TO THE CAPITAL!!

DeKalb County Office of Youth Services Young Men's & Young Women's Leadership Programs visited the Georgia State Capitol and got a taste of state politics. DeKalb's Leadership Programs had the opportunity to meet Governor Nathan Deal and many representatives from the DeKalb County district. The youth were also invited to have lunch with State Representative Dar'shun Kendrick during their field trip to the Capitol. The purpose of this trip was to help the youth learn more about the executive branch of government, promote youth involvement in governmental activities, and expose emerging community leaders to a variety of personal and professional development opportunities.



DEKALB YOUTH EXPERIENCE GRAMMY AWARD WINNING STUDIO!

DeKalb County Office of Youth Services, Young Men's Leadership Program took a tour of Grammy Award Winning Patchwerk Recording Studios in Atlanta. The young men learned the history of the studio including the first major projects to come out of Patchwerk Studio. During their visit the youth toured three recording studios and was exposed to a plethora of music knowledge about music consoles; the difference between tracking, mixing and mastering music. The tour culminated with a Q&A session with Patchwerk's executives and administration.



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Taking White House Action!!



ICEO LEE MAY ADDRESSING THE CROWD



DANCE TROOP PERFORMING



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER NATIONAL ACTION SUMMIT

The DeKalb County Government and School District co-hosted DeKalb's My Brother's Keeper Action Summit on May 16, 2015. Over 400 students attended the summit held at Miller Grove High School. A collection of city officials, community members, nonprofits, BGLO's, and youth spent the morning listening to speakers in leadership development workshops and discussion panels. Keynote speakers included ICEO Lee May, Judge Penny Brown, Superintendent Michael Thurmond, and rapper T.I., all addressed topics such as Improving Police Relations, Developing Leadership Skills, Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline Discussion, and Discovering Your Voice.



BREAKOUT SESSION



HUNDREDS OF YOUTH
IN ATTENDANCE



TI ADDRESSING THE CROWD

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Lights, Camera, Action!!



HOW BIG IS YOUR DREAM U . N . I . T . Y . SOCIAL EVENT

The Office of Youth Services has partnered with the How Big Is Your Dream?! Foundation, a nonprofit, youth centered, performing arts, and education organization. The HBIYD Foundation, U.N.I.T.Y. initiative is a youth focused, led and managed, workshop and social series that features students musicians, poets, singers and performing artists in an innovative and progressive environment. The For Teens By Teens U.N.I.T.Y. Social convened nearly 75 youth in a day long extravaganza of interactive workshops, music, spoken word, theater arts, and multimedia exhibitions. You're invited to the next HBIYD social event on July 31, 2015 from 4:00pm - 11:00pm at Callenwolde Fine Arts Center. For more information contact Jashawn Williams at jrwilliams@dekalbcountyga.gov.



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Meet our Rising Stars!!



The DeKalb County Youth Commission Leadership Initiative hosted 32 Youth Commissioners during the 2015-2016 school year. The Youth Commissioners represented each of the DeKalb County High Schools. To ensure a successful program year, Youth Commissioners along with Office of Youth Services staff, participated in an overnight retreat at Montara Farms to set the tone for the year and to provide an opportunity for bonding and camaraderie. As a result, they participated in twice monthly workshops, trainings and presentations which aided their ability to support their communities. This support was displayed through activities such as a Health Walk at Arabia Mountain Park, a Shoe Drive at 6 high schools and 12 Youth Commissioners who served the homeless during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend. A highlight of this past year was the awarding of scholarships to 15 high achieving and deserving graduating seniors during the ICEO's "A Gatsby Affair" Black Tie Gala in December, 2014. The DeKalb County Youth Commissioners continued to display their promise and their commitment throughout the year to high academic success and civic engagement and it was evident this year as we celebrated 6 Valedictorians at their respective high schools, with the overwhelming majority finishing their school year with a GPA of 3.2 or better.



2015 GRADUATES

Baculima, Christopher

Brooks, Tiara**

Campbell, Kyle C.

Daniel, Amir

Dorsey, Kendra

Flores, Heydi Y.

Gipson, Deja**

Harris, Ivy**

Hart, Leila

Holmond, Morgan

Jenkins, Amber

Le, Phong**

Levy, Danny W.

Mason, Charles (Chase) I.

Meadows, Jacques

Moody, Jayla**

Mora, Beatriz A.

Myers, Andrew

Otero, Marea

Pandian, Kavi**

Roberts, Austin M.

Roberts, Myles

Roberts, Taylor

Rollo, Ireland

Smalls, Simarrie

Smith, Kia

(** denotes Valedictorians)



NEWS

Dekalb County Youth Services

Leadership Collaboration!



Quarterly the Office of Youth Services hosts a meeting of representatives, primarily Directors, from each department within DeKalb County that serves youth. On March 17th, during our last meeting, we discussed ways to collaborate more effectively and to identify opportunities to expand programming and initiatives that provide youth with sustainable, timely and necessary skills to ensure a successful future. The dialogue was electric as participants were placed in teams to discuss their “perfect program”. This fueled the conversation as we thought through ways to streamline services and programs to maximize our reach and impact.



Share Your Experiences!

We want to hear from you! Share your stories and photos of you helping youth in the DeKalb County community and have your experience featured in our next issue! Send your amazing experience and photos to lyquinones@dekalbcountyga.gov or contact our office at **404-687-7123**.



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